

NAME

Salisbury Center Historic District

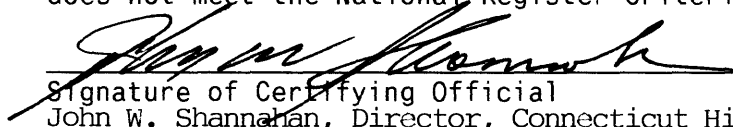
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United States Department of the Interior

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4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

 _____ 08/05/97
 Signature of Certifying Official Date
 John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

State or Federal Agency and Bureau _____

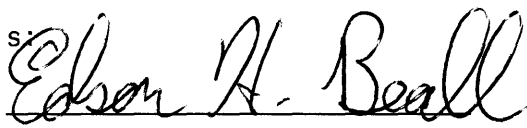
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

 Signature of Commenting or Other Official Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau _____

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Entered in the National Register  9.11.97
 Determined eligible for the _____
 National Register
 Determined not eligible for the _____
 National Register
 Removed from the National Register _____
 Other (explain): _____

 Signature of Keeper Date of Action

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6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>dwelling, hotel</u>
<u>COMMERCE</u>	<u>professional, financial,</u>
	<u>store, restaurant</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>town hall, fire station</u>
<u>EDUCATION</u>	<u>school</u>
<u>RELIGION</u>	<u>church</u>

Current: <u>same</u>	Sub: _____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification:	Materials:
<u>EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal</u>	Foundation: <u>STONE/granite, gneiss</u>
<u>MID-19C/Greek Revival</u>	Walls: <u>WOOD/weatherboard, shingle;</u>
<u>LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate</u>	<u>BRICK; CONCRETE, STUCCO</u>
<u>LATE 19C/EARLY 20C/Col. Rev.</u>	Roof: <u>WOOD/SHINGLE; asphalt</u>
<u>MODERN/contemporary</u>	Other Description: _____

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

Salisbury Center Historic District has been the institutional and commercial center of the town since it was founded, and continues actively in that role. The district runs north on Main Street/SR 44 from the Scoville Memorial Library and Town Hall for a little more than two blocks, to the green where Undermountain Road/SR 41 branches off to the north (see district map). Twenty-two of the 29 major buildings in the district were constructed in the 19th century, seven in the 20th century; other than the institutions, most were residential, but many have been converted to commercial use.

Several properties recorded by this registration form also have been designated historic by the Town of Salisbury, either individually or as part of a historic district. These properties are identified by shading on the accompanying map.

Buildings in the institutional/commercial district, which is only two to three blocks long, are generally spaced close together in a dense town center setting. Many front entrances are at the sidewalk, with no set back. Nevertheless, the space seems open because of two factors: the street is wide (Photographs 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13) and the buildings are low, generally two stories. In addition, at the southern end of the district the library has grounds of three acres and the Town Hall and the cemetery are on a 4.3-acre parcel, while at the northern end of the district the combined green and adjacent front lawn of the White Hart Inn are 1.5 acres. In between, even though the buildings are close together the small town ambience is pervasive.

The oldest resource in the district still in its original appearance is the cemetery, located on an upward slope behind the Town Hall. It was established in 1750, but most of the existing monuments are segmental marble stones dating from the early 19th century. The cemetery has an unusual bronze sculpture from 1874, an urn embellished at its neck and in the handles with busts of eight small children (Photograph 4). It is signed "T.H. Bartlett Paris."

The oldest building in the district still in its original appearance is the Congregational Church, 1800, (a portion of Bushnell Tavern, 6 Factory Street [Photograph 14] dates from 1747 but is not visually identifiable from the street). The church is a two-story frame Federal building with characteristic pedimented portico, quoins, 12-over-12 windows, Palladian windows in the square tower, and open octagonal belfry of columns without capitals (Photograph 2). The doorway anticipates the oncoming Greek Revival style by the triglyphs in its frieze. The exterior has received fewer changes than the interior, where the original high pulpit no longer is in place, original box pews have been replaced by slips, and original gallery columns removed. The former structural function of the gallery columns is now met by tie rods that support the audience chamber ceiling from the roof framing.

The church is across Main Street from the Town Hall and across Library Street from the library. Together these three large institutional buildings anchor the south end of the district, providing a strong base from which the district progresses northward (Photographs 1, 2, 3).

The north end of the district is comparably defined by the presence of the large rambling frame White Hart Inn, also with origins going back to ca.1800, and the green on which it fronts. The extent to which the inn has been altered and enlarged from time to time is indicated by its footprint (Figure 1). Its porches, dormers, gabled roofs, and massing now put it generally in the Colonial Revival mode. There is a Palladian window in the east gable end of the main block. (Photograph 12)

Main Street between the north and south anchors of the district is lined with 19th-century buildings. The Judge Martin Strong House, 11 East Main Street, 1810, displays the rectangular mass with central entrance flanked by two windows on each side typical of the era. The Judge Strong house is the last building in the row to be in commercial use on the east side of the street and therefore marks the end of the district. The house has been altered from time to time; alterations to building fabric and change in use to commercial have both been frequently experienced by buildings in the district.

The Ezra Jewell House, 4 Main Street, 1811, presents the alternate orientation of three-bay gable end toward the street. Alterations here include the wide porch that wraps around the front and two sides. At the second floor the windows are separated by Ionic pilasters, an unusually sophisticated feature if original (building is second from left in Photograph 8; pilasters are hidden by tree). The Ezra Jewell House assumed its commercial function in the 19th century as a store for the Washinee Manufacturing Company, maker of woolen yarns during the years 1853-1878. 15 Main Street, 1820, is another Federal house with three-bay gable end to the street. Its semi-elliptical pediment window is glazed in the world globe pattern, which is repeated several times up and down the street (Photograph 7, building on far right). The prevalence of the feature is unusual if original.

St. John's Episcopal Church, 12 Main Street, 1824, eclectically makes use of three styles. It may have been built in the more delicate Federal style with its stronger, more vigorous Greek Revival features added, or in 1824 the building may have been an early recognition of the oncoming Greek Revival mode. The shape and proportions of the auditorium and central tower, and the oculi in the tower, are Federal, while the trabeated doorway and its strong pediment tend toward the Greek Revival. The pointed stained-glass windows of the sanctuary, four on each side, are Gothic Revival contributions to the overall eclectic design. St. John's is one of the district's two brick 19th-century buildings and is the only building with Gothic Revival-style features. (Photograph 8, far right)

More buildings, six, are dated 1830 than any other year. The Gideon Smith House, on the White Hart Inn property, 15 Undermountain Road, is dated 1830 by the Assessor, 1815 by a sign near the front door. Its combination of the Colonial features of five bays and central entrance combined with twin chimneys and molded window cornices make it a late example of the Georgian style (Photograph 13, center). The Horace Hubbard House, 2 Main Street, continues the row of residences converted to commercial use but is different from most others because it is 1 1/2 stories. An arched attic window suggests the Italianate style and a date of ca.1870s, but the upper floor may have been an addition to an earlier building. Its first-floor porch, formerly open, is now completely glazed (Photograph 8, far left).

Two buildings of the Ragamont Inn complex, 10 Main Street, make the strongest stylistic statement among commercial properties in the district with their two colossal porticos, one Federal, one Greek Revival. The southern component of the group is brick behind a porch of Federal columns with Ionic capitals, while Doric columns protect the northern frame section (Photograph 8, second and third from right).

Continuing in the range of 1830 houses, 14 Main Street was built in the Greek Revival style as evidenced by the paneled corner pilasters, which are about the only remaining stylistic feature (Photograph 6, second from left). While considerably altered, 16 Main Street retains the shape and massing of its ca. 1830s origin (Photograph 6, third from left). Salisbury National Bank, 18 Main Street, has perhaps been altered as much but with attention to continuing, or introducing, appropriate stylistic features. Fluted pilasters flanking the entrance, quoins on the corners, and tympanum with semi-elliptical window in the globe pattern contribute to the effect (Photograph 6, third from right).

The exterior of a Federal-style school building, Salisbury Academy, Main Street, 1833, is in a good state of preservation. Its brick walls, laid up in distinctive Flemish bond, small-pane windows, and contrasting white stone dressing are all consistent with the style, as are the elliptical louver under the gable peak and low roof monitor (Photograph 5). Also well-preserved is the Elizabeth O. Lee House, 1 East Main Street, 1840. The recessed entry of this house, protected by Doric columns *in antis*, its flush tympanum, and rectangular attic window with parallel muntin bars make it the most fully developed Greek Revival design in the district.

4 Undermountain Road and 6 Undermountain Road, both dating from 1854, are modest vernacular houses located toward the north end of the district (Photograph 9, center). Salisbury Pharmacy, 20 Main Street, 1870, is another example of a building which has been greatly altered for maximum commercial potential. As in the Horace Hubbard House,

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2 Main Street, its first floor has been completely glazed for shop windows. 20 Main Street has a low hipped roof, perhaps the only hipped roof in the district (Photograph 6, second from right).

The Warner Law Office at 5 Academy Street, 1874, is one of the few buildings in the district built in a late-19th-century revival style. Despite its Academy Street address, the building faces Main Street set back behind a small town-owned lot. Its frame structure and picturesque details appropriately reflect Victorian-era tastes. Another example from the era is 17 Main Street, 1880, whose false parapet with bracketed cornice and double round-arched glazing in the front door place it in the Italianate style (Photograph 7). The Civil War monument, on the green, 1891, displays the contemporary design dichotomy of classical idealized female figure at the top of the column in contrast to four matter-of-fact cannon muzzles projecting belligerently from its pedestal (Photograph 11).

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main Street, 1891, a gray granite Romanesque Revival building individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was the last building to be constructed in the district in the 19th century (Photograph 1).

Early-20th-century stylistic preferences are represented in the district by two wood-shingled houses, 1 Main Street, 1910, with wall dormers and diamond glazing, and the George Clark House, 5 East Main Street, 1912, an example of the Bungalow style which displays good integrity (Photograph 10). Two cinder-block buildings exhibit the popularity of that version of concrete building material at 20 East Main Street, 1920 (Photograph 13, far right), and the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service, 8 Undermountain Road, 1922 (Photograph 9, far right), both initially garages. Cinder block is also one of the materials used in the aggregation of commercial buildings that forms 19 Main Street, 1920s. The Post Office, 22 Main Street, 1930, is a standard simplified Colonial Revival design in red brick (Photograph 6, far right).

Probably the largest building in the district, and the only one with a sense of modern architecture, is the Town Hall, 27 Main Street, 1988, built on the site of its predecessor after a disastrous fire. It maintains the traditional clapboards, columned portico, and octagonal domed cupolas, while the over-scaled radial glazing speaks of 20th-century post-modernism (Photograph 3).

Inventory

C or NC in the first column indicates whether the resource is considered to be Contributing or Non-contributing to the historic and architectural significance of the district. Dates generally are taken from the Assessor's field cards; occasionally by visual approximation, indicated V; and occasionally from inventory forms prepared by the Salisbury Historical Commission, indicated SHC.

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------|--|
| C | 5 Academy Street | 1874 | Warner Law Office, Nathan Daniels, builder. 1-story frame 5-room 28' x 44' Queen Anne building covered with clapboards. Built for Donald J. Warner, 1st, Esq. (1819-1904), and occupied by four generations of lawyers in family, and their partners. |
| C | 1 East Main Street | 1840 | Elizabeth O. Lee House. 2-story frame Greek Revival 18' x 32' house with 3-bay gable end to street, covered with clapboards. At first floor, recessed entry is in south bay, protected by Doric columns <i>in antis</i> . Windows are 12-over-12, two at first floor, three at second. Flush pediment has rectangular window with parallel muntin bars. South roof slope supports dormer. House appears to be in good state of historic preservation. Additions to south and west. Elizabeth O. Lee, for whom house was constructed, was descendant of Salisbury's first minister. |
| C | | ca.1900 | Barn. |
| C | 5 East Main Street | 1912 | George Clark House. 1-story frame 40' x 30' Bungalow with wood-shingled walls and roof. Wide front porch is under sweep of roof. Windows are 1-over-1. In front wall behind porch, size of windows doubles, becoming 2-over-2. In roof are three gables, each with paired windows, upper sash diagonally glazed. (Photograph 10) |
| C | 11 East Main Street | 1810 | Judge Martin Strong House. 2-story frame 36' x 49' Georgian house with central door surrounded by side lights and transom under peaked shallow gable. Two 9-over-9 windows at each side of door have delicate cornices. There are also four windows, 6-over-6, at second floor; none over door. Ell extends to rear. Chimney is exterior, on north side elevation. House appears to have been altered from time to time; now in commercial use.

1-story 24' x 16' wing to south, with two 12-over-8 windows, originally was free-standing office building on premises, used by series of judges and ministers who resided in house. |

- C 20 East Main Street 1920 1-story cinder block vernacular 22' x 66' garage, covered with stucco. Flat tar-and-gravel roof. Central recessed section in front elevation was garage entrance. Brick parapet has central gable. Now retail and apartment. (Photograph 13, far right)
- C 6 Factory Street 1746/1790 Bushnell Tavern. 2 story frame gable-roofed 8-bay clapboarded house with 2-tier front porch and two chimneys. Long ell includes garage and bank barn. Greenhouse to north. South three bays incorporate original fabric, discovered when house moved back from street in 1920. North five bays are in usual 2-1-2 rhythm with central chimney. Town meetings held here in winters of 1798-1804 because of no heat in Town Hall across street. (Photograph 14)
- C 1 Main Street ca.1910V 2-story frame gable-roofed 20' x 40' house sheathed in wood shingles. Two front wall dormers. Window transoms diamond-glazed. Use now commercial. (Photograph 9, far left)
- C ca.1940V Shed.
- C 2 Main Street 1830? Horace Hubbard House. 1 1/2-story frame 27' x 37' vernacular house converted to commercial use, covered with clapboards. Central chimney. Hip-roofed dormer on south roof slope. Altered. Arched attic window suggests Italianate style and date of ca.1870s. First-floor front porch now completely glazed. (Photograph 8, far left)
- C 4 Main Street 1811SHC Ezra Jewell House. 2-story frame 22' x 34' Federal house with 3-bay gable end to street, covered with clapboards. Wide porch supported by chamfered posts wraps around front and two sides. Two 6-over-9 windows are at first floor, three 8-over-8 at second, where they are separated by Ionic pilasters. In center of flush pediment is semi-elliptical window glazed in globe pattern. In mid-19th century, building was store for Washinee Manufacturing Company, producers of woolen yarn. (Photograph 8, second from left)
- C ca.1940s Garage.
- C 10 Main Street 1830 Ragamont Inn. Irregular complex of several buildings arranged in shape of extended U, with ell. Chief architectural interest is in two colossal Federal and Greek Revival porticos facing

street. South brick section has Ionic portico and north frame block has Doric portico. The two are connected by recessed section that also has two 2-story Ionic columns. South block has radially glazed semi-elliptical windows in pediment and over door. Inn has been in operation here since ca.1830. (Photograph 8, second and third from right)

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|----|----------------|--|---|
| NC | 1900 | 8 Main Street, on same parcel with 10 Main Street. 2-story frame 60' x 30' house. Altered. Exterior walls are now vertical wooden siding in manner of modern architecture, obscuring any vestige of 1900 appearance. | |
| C | 12 Main Street | 1824 | St. John's Episcopal Church. Brick Federal/Greek Revival/Gothic Revival 35' x 75' church with central front square tower. Central entrance at foot of tower consists of trabeated doorway under pediment. Small flanking doors have console brackets supporting their cornices. Oculus at two-thirds of tower height is embellished with four keystones; similar oculi are in side elevations near front; most of side elevations are occupied by four tall pointed Gothic Revival stained-glass windows, each composed of two narrow lancet sections. 34' x 69' 1-story addition at rear northeast corner. (Photographs 6, far left, and 8, far right) |
| C | 14 Main Street | 1830 | 2-story frame Greek Revival 31' x 54' commercial building, much altered. 2-story paneled pilasters at front corners establish Greek Revival origin. First-floor front now occupied by shop windows. 1-story 30' x 20' ell. (Photograph 6, second from left) |
| C | 15 Main Street | ca.1820V | 2-story frame Federal gable-roofed residence sheathed in clapboards. 24' x 34' with 1-story wing, porch, and ell. 3-bay gable-end elevation to street. Semi-elliptical attic window glazed in globe pattern. (Photograph 7, far right) |
| C | 16 Main Street | 1830? | 1 1/2-story frame 18' x 44' vernacular commercial building. Alterations obscure original configuration to make visual confirmation of Assessor's date of 1830 difficult. (Photograph 6, third from left) |
| C | 17 Main Street | ca.1880V | 2-story frame 18' x 32' Italianate building with ell and 1-story 19' x 16' metal barn attached to northwest. Front elevation is topped by tall false |

parapet with bracketed cornice. Shop windows flank front door with double round-arched glazing. (Photograph 7, second from right)

- C 18 Main Street ca.1830V/rebuilt after 1903 fire. Salisbury National Bank. 2-story frame building with gable end to street. Central door is flanked by fluted pilasters under low gable. 8-over-8 window is on each side, while second floor has four 8-over-8s in 1-2-1 rhythm. Front corners of building are embellished with heavy quoins and pediment's tympanum with semi-elliptical window glazed in globe motif. South side elevation is entered through mid-section protected doorway near exterior chimney and under cross gable in roof. On north side elevation, only fenestration is three 6-over-6 windows at the second floor. (Photograph 6, third from right)
- C 19 Main Street 1920s 1-story cinder-block and 2-story frame vinyl-clad 92' x 112' irregularly shaped commercial building. Partial front brick facing. (Photograph 7, left)
- Map 54, lot 25 Walkway from Main Street to rear area. Walkway only, small portion of parcel (22 Academy Street), is included, to provide continuity.
- C 20 Main Street 1870/rebuilt after 1903 fire. Salisbury Pharmacy. 2-story frame vernacular 40' x 52' commercial building covered with clapboards under low-pitched hipped roof. First-floor front is glazed with large display windows under paneled fascia. Second-floor windows are 1-over-1, single, paired, and in bands of four. General effect suggests Colonial Revival influence. (Photograph 6, second from left)
- Map 54, lot 21 Vacant land 25' x 62.5' in front of Post Office.
- C 22 Main Street 1930 Post Office. 1-story brick 34' x 60' Colonial Revival building. Rear loading dock. (Photograph 6, far right)
- C Map 54, lot 22 1833 Salisbury Academy, Colonel Loring Bartlett, architect. 2-story brick Federal building with gable end to street. In front elevation, first floor has two doors, center and north, and one 12-over-12 window south. Three such windows are at second floor and five on side elevations. Window sills and lintels are marble or white limestone. Front gable features vertically oriented elliptical louver. Roof eaves project and return slightly.

Small louvered cupola rests on ridge line at apex of gable. (Photograph 5)

Building was used first as private school then public school from 1833 to 1929. Altered to become Salisbury Court House in 1960, Norton S. Miner, architect.

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|----|-------------------|---------|--|
| NC | 27 Main Street | 1988 | Town Hall, Kliment & Halsband, architects. 2-story frame 41' x 128' building sheathed with wood clapboards under metal roof. 7' x 38' colossal front portico of six columns. Replaces building which burned in 1985. Previous building incorporated parts of original 1749 fabric enlarged and remodelled in 1878, 1913, and 1963. (Photograph 3) |
| | | 1750 | Cemetery. Most stones are marble, indicating early-19th-century origin. On many stones lettering is not legible, but each has small metal plaque on back with raised lettering giving names and dates.

Cemetery slopes up toward back (west) where two monuments of Coffing/Fitch/Bostwick family are located. One monument is surmounted by bronze urn signed (incised in rim of base) on west side T.H. Bartlett, Sculptor; east side, Paris, 1874. Sculpture incorporates busts of eight children. Adjoining large granite monument to children's great-grandfather JOHN CHURCHILL COFFING / BORN OCT. 6, 1776 / DIED SEPT. 19, 1847 consists of base and full-sized bier. On front (east) is marble portrait <i>bas-relief</i> bust. (Photograph 4) |
| | Map 54, parcel 77 | | Vacant land. |
| C | 30 Main Street | ca.1800 | Church of Christ, Congregational, Thomas Dutton, builder/architect. Frame Federal 45' x 64' church sheathed in clapboards. 2-story 28' x 8' pavilion, lower than main block, has trabeated central doorway with triglyphs in frieze and pediment above. Palladian window is at second story. Pavilion's pediment is embellished by modillion courses under cornice and raking cornices. Front wall of square tower is set back half way between front walls of pavilion and main block. It has Palladian window in each face. In open belfry on top of flat roof, balustrade connects six round columns under bell-shaped roof with whale weathervane. (Photograph 2) |

On front elevation 12-over-12 windows flank pavilion at first and second floors and continue in two tiers along side elevations. Quoins embellish the corners of the pavilion and main block. Doors at the sides of pavilion have radially glazed transoms. Connecticut Historical Commission blue-enamel-on-aluminum town historic marker stands in front of church. 2-story frame 41' x 67' parish hall added at rear in 1959, Norton S. Miner, architect.

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---------|---|
| C | 38 Main Street | 1894 | Scoville Memorial Library, Stone, Carpenter & Willson, architects. Listed on National Register of Historic Places in 1982. Granite Romanesque Revival L-shaped building, 103' x 35'. High gable-roofed section to south has wall dormer for large mullioned window. Massive square castellated tower is off center north, with lower smaller gable-roofed section to its north. (Photograph 1) Ell is addition. |
| C | 4 Undermountain Rd. | ca.1865 | 2-story frame 20' x 40' vernacular house, gable end to street. Eaves return briefly on either side of quatrefoil-shaped attic window. Wide front porch supported by square posts. Altered. (Photograph 9) |
| C | | 1940 | Garage |
| C | 6 Undermountain Rd. | ca.1865 | 2-story frame L-shaped gable-roofed vernacular house sheathed in clapboards. 18' x 24' with 12' x 18' west wing. Altered. (Photograph 9) |
| NC | | 1964 | Concrete and vinyl pool. |
| NC | | 1980 | Metal shed. |
| C | 8 Undermountain Road | 1922 | Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service. Three sections: 2-story brick 33' x 84', 1-story brick 44' x 84', 1-story cinder-block ell 33' x 40'. Two overhead garage doors in brick front elevation, which is defined by soldier-course brick. Central curved gable in roof-line parapet sets off concrete panel in which are raised numerals 1922. (Photograph 9) |
| C | green, 56-34 | 1891 | Civil War Monument, George E. Bissell, sculptor. Monument faces south in center of small triangular space called Civil War Memorial Park on Salisbury green. Monument consists of rock-faced dark gray Quincy granite base with cannon muzzles projecting |

from each face, die covered with bronze plaques, and surmounting female allegorical figure. It is dedicated to all Salisbury men who served in Civil War. (Photograph 11)

- C 15 Undermountain Road 1800 White Hart Inn. Rambling 2-story frame building oriented diagonally toward Civil War Monument and town green. Main building, covered with clapboards, has wide front porch and tripartite first-floor windows. Second-floor windows are single and paired 1-over-1s. Hipped-roof dormers above have wide 1-over-1s. Palladian window in south gable end. Wing set back to south is similar but smaller, with porch that wraps around to East Main Street elevation. Each block has central chimney. (Photograph 12)
- C 1815 sign on house, 1830A Gideon Smith House. 2-story frame 5-bay central-entrance 32' x 36' late Georgian house. Twin chimneys set in from end walls. 12-over-12 windows under delicate cornices. Gabled entrance porch faces East Main Street. (Photograph 13)
- C ca.1930sV Staff quarters. 3-story frame vernacular structure with wide front porch. Now used for storage.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Nationally:___ Statewide: x Locally:___

Applicable National Register Criteria: A___ B___ C x D___

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A___ B___ C___ D___ E___ F___ G___

Areas of Significance:	Period(s) of Significance		Significant Dates
<u>ARCHITECTURE</u>	<u>1800</u>	<u>1930</u>	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder/Sculptor: Truman H. Bartlett; George E. Bissell; Thomas Dutton; Stone, Carpenter & Willson; Nathan Daniels; Loring Bartlett; Norton S. Miner; Kliment & Halsband

State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

Summary

The Salisbury Center Historic District comprises institutional and commercial buildings which are good examples of a variety of 19th-century architectural styles. In many cases domestic buildings now in commercial use have been altered to suit their strong mercantile function. The institutional buildings, many on their original sites, dominate the district visually as institutions have for two centuries. The architecture of the district creates a strong sense of a 19th-century town center, little changed in the 20th century.

Historical Note

The critical event in the history of Salisbury was the early-18th-century discovery of rich iron ore deposits. With both fast-running streams for waterpower and ample forests for hardwoods to make charcoal nearby, the iron-processing industry was well-developed in Salisbury by the end of the 18th-century. Salisbury cannon were essential to victory in the Revolutionary War and Salisbury furnished ammunition for the War of 1812. In addition, peacetime applications for wrought and cast iron produced by many forges and blast furnaces were endless, encouraging early and substantial industrialism in Salisbury.

Usual agricultural pursuits of settlers went forward in tandem with the iron industry. Waterpower augmented subsistence farming through gristmills and sawmills, processing the products of the farms, and was used in the fabrication of hats, bicycles, textiles, and cutlery. The Salisbury Center Historic District was the hub for the combined extensive activity stemming from the natural resources of iron, waterpower, and agriculture as the community developed and grew from the Revolutionary War to the Civil War.

By the time of the Civil War, demand for iron decreased as a consequence of the development of steel and steampower supplanted waterpower, bringing industrial activity in Salisbury to a virtual halt. Accordingly, the district entered a period of no growth but continued stability as the institutional and commercial center of the less active region. More than a century later the Salisbury Center Historic District continues to serve as the institutional and commercial hub of the town.

Architecture

Architecture of the Salisbury Center Historic District is significant because as a totality it is a well-preserved group of 19th-century buildings which constitute the continuing institutional and commercial hub of the community. Buildings in the district are a mixture of styles and age, most dating from the 19th century, functioning together as the activity center and seat of government of the Town of Salisbury.

A good example of the early commercial use of buildings in the district is the Bushnell Tavern, 6 Factory Street. Its south section dates from 1746, making it the oldest building fabric in the district. After making additions in 1790, Captain Jeremiah Bushnell operated a tavern on the premises to 1840. The Congregational Church, St. John's Episcopal Church, and Salisbury Academy are other good examples of well-preserved early-19th-century architecture or buildings displaying 19th-century features which add significance to the district.

Many other buildings in the Center are vernacular work of anonymous builders, but several are excellent examples of their styles by well-known men. Perhaps the most famous name represented in the district is not an architect but a sculptor, Truman H. Bartlett (1835-1923), an American who lived and worked in Paris where he developed a reputation as a nationally known artist. His son Paul W. Bartlett (1865-1925) was also a sculptor, recognized in Connecticut for his equestrian bronze of the Marquis de Lafayette which stands in Hartford near the State Capitol and the State Library.

Regrettably, nothing is known concerning the circumstances whereby Bartlett secured the commission for the bronze vase with small busts of eight children.

The other well-known sculptor with work in the district, the Civil War Monument, is George Edwin Bissell (1839-1920), who was born in New Preston, Connecticut, 25 miles south of Salisbury, the son of a quarryman and marble worker. At the time of the Salisbury commission Bissell was a resident of Salisbury.

Bissell's skill in combining allegory in bronze with granite stonework found earlier expression in the Waterbury SOLDIERS' MONUMENT commission of 1884. The classical character of Bissell's sculpture, the allegories that it articulated, and the locale for the modeling and casting, done in Europe, all express the 19th-century classical European tradition in art and aesthetics, combined in Salisbury with four cannon muzzles in a manner unique in Connecticut.

Amongst the architects and builders, Stone, Carpenter & Willson was a Providence, Rhode Island, firm which designed the Providence Public Library during a long practice. Nathan Daniels and Loring Bartlett were prominent 19th-century Salisbury builders, while Norton S. Miner carried on a respected architectural practice locally for several decades in the mid to late 20th century.

In three known instances, and perhaps more, unknown, the patrons of these men were families whose fortunes derived from the iron business: the Coffings were patrons of T.H. Bartlett, The Scoville family of Stone, Carpenter & Willson, and the Warners of Nathan Daniels. The iron industry provided the basic economic activity which the institutional and commercial district served and in at least three instances industry leaders commissioned work by outstanding practitioners for the district.

The Congregational Church is significant for its early date, distinguished architecture, and well-preserved condition, at least on the exterior. J. Frederick Kelly in his seminal *Early Connecticut Meetinghouses* describes and discusses the building for several pages. He uses the term Georgian for the style of some of its features, but the level of elaboration, development, and refinement found in the church appears to fit better with the succeeding Federal style.

The church was built to replace the aging meetinghouse across the street (Figure 2). The town, which retained ownership of the building, leased it for use as an inn, while continuing to use a large room for town meetings. In 1878 the town took over occupancy of the entire building and built the tower seen in Figure 2. In 1913 when the building was again enlarged, a Colonial Revival portico with two-story columns was built on the front. Northwest Connecticut ardently embraced the Colonial Revival and the Salisbury Town Hall portico became the recognition symbol of the building and the town. Accordingly, after the 1985 fire, replacing the image of the portico became a must for the town. The New York City architects Kliment & Halsband met the popular demand with the present edifice.

Scoville Memorial Library, the third of the three large buildings that anchor the southern end of the district, is dealt with separately in its own National Register of Historic Place registration form.

Another building which retains its original design clarity, of good quality, is the Elizabeth O. Lee House. A sophisticated and fully developed example of the Greek

Revival style at its height, the well-preserved house is an important component of the district.

Most other buildings in the district have been altered and enlarged over time to meet changing needs of the town center. The White Hart Inn, which anchors the north end of the district, assumed approximately its present appearance in the 1890s; prior to that time it featured tiered porches and a tower. The Academy and the Warner Law Office have more integrity than others, but the important consideration is that the entire group collectively exhibits unusual overall integrity as a 19th-century institutional and commercial district. The district continues to function as the institutional and commercial hub of the town.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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NAME

Salisbury Center Historic District

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United States Department of the Interior

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- Previously Listed in the National Register. Scoville Memorial Library
- Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.
- Designated a National Historic Landmark.
- Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: # _____
- Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other: Specify Repository: Scoville Memorial Library, Salisbury, CT.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreeage of Property: 26

UTM References: Zone Northing Easting Zone Northing Easting

A	<u>18</u>	<u>4649120</u>	<u>630740</u>	B	<u>18</u>	<u>4648560</u>	<u>630680</u>
C	<u>18</u>	<u>4648580</u>	<u>630600</u>	D	<u>18</u>	<u>4648740</u>	<u>630400</u>
E	<u>18</u>	<u>4649120</u>	<u>630620</u>	F	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary is shown by the dashed line on the accompanying district map.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary is drawn to encompass properties that front on the main streets of the institutional and commercial center of Salisbury.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: David F. Ransom, Consultant, reviewed by John F.A. Herzan, National Register Coordinator

Org.: Architectural Historian

Date: December 1996

Street/#: 33 Sunrise Hill Drive

City/Town: West Hartford

State: CT

ZIP: 06107

Telephone: 860 521-3387

Figures

Figure 1. Ground plan, White Hart Inn

Figure 2. Town Hall in 1894

Photographs

Photographs were taken by David F. Ransom in October and November 1996, except Photograph 14 which is courtesy Salisbury Historic District Commission. Negatives are on file at Connecticut Historical Commission.

Photograph 1
Scoville Memorial Library
38 Main Street
View southeast

Photograph 2
Church of Christ, Congregational
30 Main Street
View northeast

Photograph 3
Town Hall, 27 Main Street, and
19 Main Street
View northwest

Photograph 4
T.H. Bartlett Bronze in
Cemetery, 27 Main Street
View northwest

Photograph 5
Academy
Parcel 54-32
View southeast

Photograph 6
12-22 Main Street
View northeast

Photograph 7
19-17-15 Main Street
View northwest

Photograph 8
2-12 Main Street
View southeast

Photograph 9
1 Main Street-
8 Undermountain Road
View northwest

Photograph 10
George Clark House
5 East Main Street
View southeast

Photograph 11
Columbia/Civil War Monument
East Main Street
View northwest

Photograph 12
White Hart Inn
15 Undermountain Road
View northwest

NAME

Salisbury Center Historic District

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United States Department of the Interior

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Photograph 13

20 East Main Street
Gideon Smith House &
White Hart Inn
15 Undermountain Road
View southwest

Photograph 14

6 Factory Street
Bushnell Tavern
View southwest

6368 11 SE
ASHLEY FALLS

SHARON QUADRANGLE
CONNECTICUT—NEW YORK
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

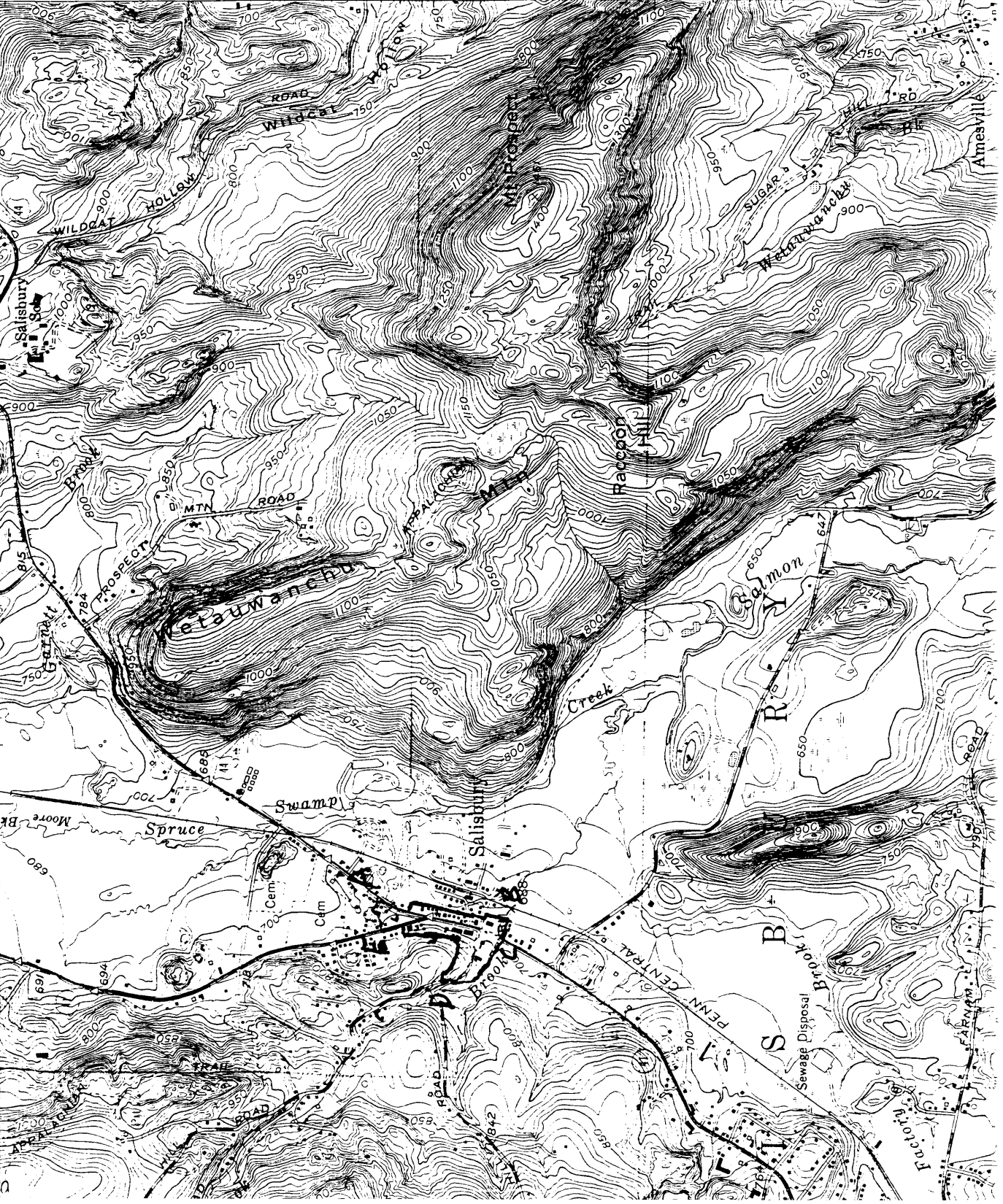
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CATAWAUG 4 MI

633 631 25' 1420 000 FEET (CONN.)

630 631 25' 1420 000 FEET (CONN.)

630 631 25' 1420 000 FEET (CONN.)

630 631 25' 1420 000 FEET (CONN.)



SALISBURY CENTER HALL
SALISBURY, CT
A 4649139/630740
B 4648 569/630600
C 4648 569/630600
D 4648740/630400
420 000 FEET E (1:62,500)
(CONN.)
4649

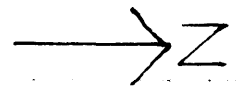
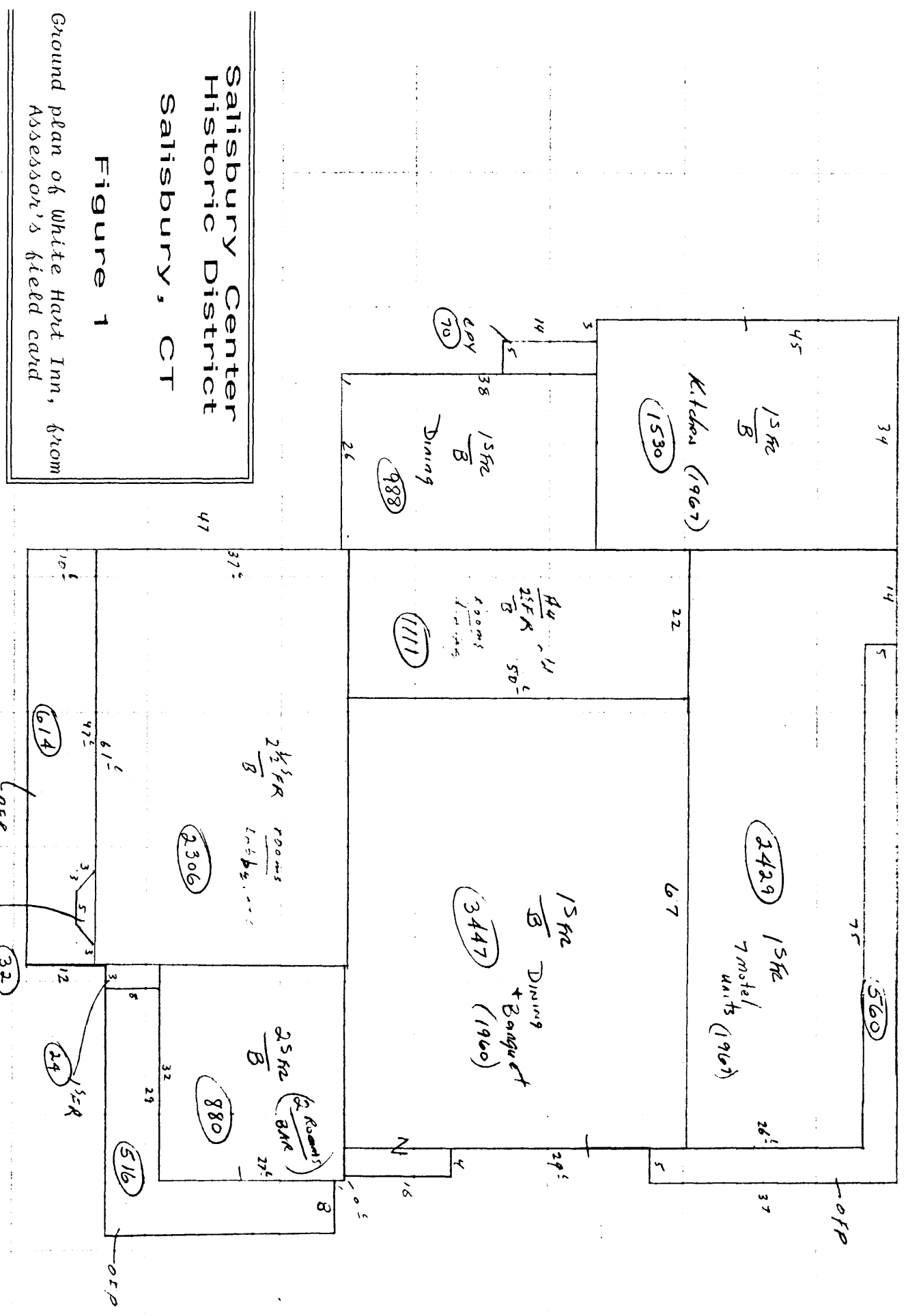
4648

4647

CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT
OF CONSERVATION
1 FALLS

631 25' 1420 000 FEET (CONN.)

630 631 25' 1420 000 FEET (CONN.)





THE TOWN HALL IN 1894
WHOSE MAIN BUILDING, WITHOUT THE TOWER AND FRONT GABLE, WAS THE
FIRST MEETING HOUSE, BUILT IN 1749

Salisbury Center
Historic District

Salisbury, CT

Figure 2

*(The One Hundred and Fifteth
Anniversary of the Congregational
Church in Salisbury, Conn. Hartford:
Case, Lockwood & Brainard Company, 1895.)*